SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY CO.—LEASE OF CARRIAGES—RENT PAID

196. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to state the rent paid to the Railway Co., during the last nine months as lease amount for carriages?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* The hire charges payable to the Railway Co. for the rolling stock used on the Shoranur-Cochin Railway are calculated half-yearly at 8 per cent of the gross earnings. The charges paid during the half-year ending 30th September 1939 amount to Rs. 74,500—3—4. No separate figures for the last nine months are available.

197. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to state the amount of rent paid to the Railway Company during the last one year for Railway carriages taken on lease?

Rama Varmha Tampuran *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* For the year 1938—39, a sum of Rs. 1,34,938 was paid as hire charges for the rolling stock run on the Shoranur-Cochin Railway.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Since the hire charges come to nearly one lakh and fifty thousand rupees, is it not advisable to have our own rolling stock?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar *(Secretary to Government):* The question was examined very carefully and it was only afterwards that we renewed the agreement for a further period of three years. It was found that it would not be profitable. The cost was very prohibitive if we go in for rolling stock of our own.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യുണ്ണി: എത്രവീതം പലിശ കണക്കാക്കിയാണ് ഒരു കൊല്ലത്തിൽ ഒന്നരലക്ഷം രൂപാ റെൻറായി കൊടുത്തിട്ടുണ്ടെന്ന് പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുള്ളതു ?

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. പി. കണ്ണൻനായർ: എത്രവീതം പലിശയാണെന്ന് പറയാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല. ഏതാണ്ട് ൪ or ൫% വരുമെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. ഏ കദേശം കണക്കാക്കീട്ടുണ്ടെന്നല്ലാതെ ഇത്രയെന്ന് തീർച്ചയാക്കീട്ടില്ല. ഇതു വളരെ അധികം വരുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ഇതിനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതാണ്.

Mr. President: I think the capital expenditure will come to nearly 30 lakhs, and we found that apart from the actual rate of interest, the Government would find it difficult to raise that capital. That is one of the reasons why we renewed the agreement.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. ആർ. ഇയ്യുണ്ണി: ഏതു കൊല്ലത്തേക്കാണ് ഈ കരാർ നീട്ടി കൊടുത്തിട്ടുള്ളതു?

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Mr. President: I think it is for three years.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Was it not possible to raise a debenture loan?

Mr. President: Not now at any rate. The war situation has made it almost impossible for this State to go in for a loan in the open market.

EMBRANDIRIES—LITERACY AMONG

198. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the total number of Embrandiries in the State;

(*b*) how many of them are literate;

(*c*) what is the number who attends schools in the State;

(*d*) how many of the school-going Embrans are boys and how many girls;

(*e*) whether Government have received any petition from the Embrandiries for aid to the students?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):*

(*a*) 1571 (according to the last Census Report).

(*b*) 705 (7 years and over).

(*c*) 234.

(*d*) Boys .. 146.
Girls .. 88.

(*e*) No such petition has been received either last year or this year.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Are not these Embrandiries as a rule very poor?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I cannot say. I have no statistics to base a reply on.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* From the figures given here, about 50 per cent of them are illiterate. Will the Government consider to give the same concession to these Embrandiries as in the case of the Nambudiries?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction):* I cannot promise on behalf of the Government that the consideration which was shown to the Nambudiries can be shown to these people also.

Mr. Puthur Achyuta Menon *(Kattur):* Was any petition received from these Embrandiries to give them concessions?

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